

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 and 32 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of January 17, 2007 wherein amendments to independent claims 1, 23, and 32 were discussed in order to place the pending claims in better condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 1, 23 and 32 have been amended as shown on pages 2-6 of the Reply. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claim 32 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi *et al.* (US 6,539,481) and Baugher *et al.* (US 5,701,465) in view of Blakley III, *et al.* (US 7,039,714). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason. Claim 32 has been amended and the primary, secondary and tertiary documents as indicated by the Examiner do not teach or suggest all features recited in the subject claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-9, 22-23, 25, and 27-30 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-9, 22-23, 25, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi *et al.*, Dworkin (US 2002/0071540), and Baugher *et al.* in view of Blakley III *et al.* This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason. Independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to recite ***the first resource manager is one of a plurality of collaborating resource managers and routing the request in a round-robin fashion to each of the collaborating resource managers based on an analysis of the request and mapping information associated with the at least one resource.*** As indicated by the Examiner during the telephonic interview the foregoing features are not taught or suggested by Takahashi *et al.*, Dworkin, Baugher *et al.* or Blakley III *et al.* Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection with respect to independent claims 1 and 23 (and associated dependent claims) is requested.

III. Rejection of Claims 10-11 and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 10-11 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi *et al.*, Dworkin, Baugher *et al.* and Blakley III *et al.* in view of Markarios *et al.* (US 6,401,125). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claims 10-11 and 26 depend from independent claims 1 and 23 respectively, and Markarios *et al.* fails to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies with respect to Takahashi *et al.*, Dworkin, Baugher *et al.* and Blakley III *et al.* Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claims 12-21 and 24 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 12-21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi *et al.*, Dworkin, Baugher *et al.* and Blakley III *et al.* in view of Zadikian *et al.* (US 6,631,134). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reason. Claims 12-21 and 24 depend respectively from independent claims 1 and 23, and Zadikian *et al.* does not remedy the aforementioned deficiencies with respect to Takahashi *et al.*, Dworkin, Baugher *et al.* and Blakley III *et al.* Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP182US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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